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TAGS: MX, PREL, XK
SUBJECT: MEXICAN PRESS REPORTS ON U.S. CONGRESSIONAL
OBSERVATION OF CONTADORA MEETING

1. WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTADORA MEETING RECENTLY
CONCLUDED IN PANAMA, THE MEXICO CITY DAILY "EXCELSIOR"
REPORTED ON APRIL 8 STATEMENTS MADE IN PANAMA BY THE
THREE U.S. CONGRESSMEN OBSERVING THE MEETING,
REPRESENTATIVES RICHARDSON, SLATTERY, AND BARNES WHICH
WERE CRITICAL OF THE SANDINISTAS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THE THREE DEMOCRATIC
CONGRESSMEN AFFIRMED THAT THE ATTITUDE ASSUMED BY
NICARAGUA AND ITS CUBAN ADVISORS DURING THE MEETING
HAD SET THE PEACE PROCESS BACK CONSIDERABLY. THEY SAID
THAT 12 MINISTERS HAD BEEN IN AGREEMENT TO SIGN A
COMMUNIQUE TOGETHER IN WHICH THEY COMMITTED THEMSELVES
TO FINALIZE AND SIGN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT FOR PEACE
IN CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THAT ONLY ONE DIPLOMAT, THAT OF
NICARAGUA, HAD BEEN OPPOSED.

3. CONGRESSMAN RICHARDSON, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS,
SAID THAT THE CONTADORA PROCESS SHOULD INCLUDE, ON THE
PART OF THE SANDINISTAS, A REDUCTION IN ITS ARMED FORCES
AND IN ITS AGGRESSIVE POLICIES TOWARD OTHER STATES.
HE REPORTEDLY INSISTED THAT NICARAGUA SHOULD GIVE A
MORE SOLID DEMONSTRATION THAT IT REALLY INTENDS TO
BRING DEMOCRACY INSIDE ITS BORDERS, BECAUSE UNTIL NOW
IT HAS NOT RESPECTED IT.

4. CONGRESSMAN RICHARDSON WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT
THE DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS DON'T APPROVE OF THE
MILITARY HELP WHICH THE U.S. GIVES TO HONDURAS BUT HE
ALSO RECOGNIZES THAT THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT HAS
COMMITTED GRAVE ERRORS, LIKE THE RECENT INCURSIONS
IN HONDURAN TERRITORY. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE DEMOCRATS
IN CONGRESS THINK THAT THE COURSE OF THE NICARAGUAN
REVOLUTION SHOULD BE MODIFIED, HE REPLIED, "ABSOLUTELY."
THEY SAID THAT THE NICARAGUAN REVOLUTION HAD BEEN FOR
THEM A VERY NEGATIVE THING. IT HAD TOTALLY PARTED
WAYS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, HAD COMMITTED AGGRESSION
AGAINST THE CHURCH, AND CONSTITUTED A PROBLEM WITH
REGARD TO ACHIEVING PEACE. THE CONTRAS ALSO CONSTITUTED
AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE. ON NEITHER SIDE WERE THERE

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ANGELS. NOBODY IN CENTRAL AMERICA HAS WHITE HATS,
RICHARDSON ADDED. THE WAY TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND
SECURITY IN THE REGION IS TO ENCOURAGE A PROCESS
INVOLVING THE U.S., CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THE CONTADORA
GROUP. QUERIED WHETHER ASKING THE SANDINISTAS TO
DISARM WAS NOT THE SAME AS ASKING THEM TO COMMIT
SUICIDE, THE CONGRESSMAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE REPLIED
THAT THE SANDINISTAS SHOULD DISARM AND THAT THE U.S.
SHOULD ALSO STOP AIDING THE CONTRAS. (DRAFTED:PSIEKERT)
GAVIN
END OF MESSAGE

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